
A Europe-wide ban on all children's food imported from China has come into force. It follows the deaths of four Chinese children after drinking contaminated powdered milk. 13,000 children in China are still being treated in hospital. Chris Mason reports:

Batches of powdered milk in China have been **contaminated** with melamine - which is used in **pesticides** and plastics. The European Union has now banned imports of Chinese baby food that contain any **traces** of milk.

The decision, under the bloc's health and safety **provisions**, will also mean all food imports from China which contain at least 15 percent milk products will be **subjected to tests**. Officials at the European Commission in Brussels are **emphasising** that, as far as they know, there has been no contamination of food **originating from** China, and **these measures are purely a precaution**.

The ban comes as production of a popular milk-based sweet known as White Rabbit has been stopped in China after **traces of a toxic chemical** were found in the product.

Chris Mason, BBC News, Brussels

Vocabulary and definitions

Batches	a batch is a group of similar things that are all dealt with or produced at the same time
contaminated	made impure and, as in this case, unsafe through mixing in a harmful substance
pesticides	chemical substances that are used to kill harmful insects, unwanted small animals or wild plants
traces	very small quantities
provisions	laws, rules and regulations
subjected to tests	checked, examined, chemically analysed
emphasising	stressing, giving importance to the fact
originating from	coming from, produced in
these measures are purely a precaution	here, the new ban and tests are only steps to prevent things going wrong in the future, not because there is a problem now
a toxic chemical	a harmful, poisonous substance

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7635594.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

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